

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00055 021727Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7052

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00055

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, SZ, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SWISS MEDIVAC FLIGHT TO BERLIN

REF: (A) BERLIN 2346; (B) BONN 19653; (C) STATE 2393,
JAN 5, 1974

1. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE BENEFITS OF A FORTHCOMING ALLIED APPROACH TO NON-THREE POWER MEDIVAC CORRIDOR FLIGHTS, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT SWISS AIR RESCUE (SAR) APPLICATION DOES NOT WARRANT AN EXCEPTION TO THE LONG-STANDING PROCEDURES GOVERNING CORRIDOR USAGE. BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES HERE HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN UNWILLING TO CONSIDER CORRIDOR FLIGHTS BY NON-ALLIED AIRCRAFT -- INCLUDING THOSE ON BEHALF OF MEDIVAC ORGANIZATIONS. OUR LATEST SOUNDINGS INDICATED THAT THE UK EMBASSY WAS IRMLY OPPOSED TO REVERSING CAA DENIAL OF THIS APPLICATION. FRENCH HAVE LIKEWISE OPPOSED USE OF CORRIDORS BY NON-ALLIED MEDIVAC ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH HAVE BASED THEIR POSITIONS ON ESSENTIALLY THE SAME FACTORS CITED IN REFTEL C.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION, WE FIND IT
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PAGE 02 BONN 00055 021727Z

INTERESTING THAT AN

FRG AFFILI-
ATE OF THE SAR(DEUTSCHE
RETTUNGSWACHT)
RECENTLY INQUIRED WHETHER THE
ALLIED
CAA'S WOULD CONSIDER GRANTING
A BLANKET CLEARANCE FOR
MEDIVAC
CORRIDOR FLIGHTS. CAA'S RESPONDED THAT CORRIDOR
FLIGHTS BY THE DEUTSCHE RETTUNGSWACHT COULD NOT BE
APPROVED UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THAT THE
CAA'S WOULD CONSIDER BLANKET CLEARANCES FOR ALLIED
REGISTERED AIRCRAFT, IF THE GERMAN ORGANIZATION WISHED
TO MAKE AN ADVANCE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH AN
ALLIED MEDIVAC ORGANIZATION.

3. OUR THINKING ON THIS QUESTION HAS ALSO BEEN
INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT SAR'S PRESENT APPLICATION
CLEARLY DOES NOT INVOLVE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, SINCE
FLIGHT WAS PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE. THIS, IN FACT,
HAS PROVEN TO BE THE CASE IN THREE PREVIOUS APPLICA-
TIONS OR INQUIRIES MADE BY SAR OVER THE PAST YEAR.
IN ALL OF THESE CASES THERE HAS BEEN AMPLE TIME TO
ARRANGE FOR ALLIED REGISTERED AIRCRAFT TO FLY THE
MISSIONS IF SAR HAD SO DESIRED. WHERE THE NEED FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL MISSIONS HAVE ARISEN THE ALLIES HAVE
HAD AND CONTINUE TO HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF ARRANGING
FOR SUCH FLIGHTS ON SHORT NOTICE.

4. IN SUM, EMBASSY SEES NO BASIS IN THE PRESENT
SITUATION TO WARRANT REEXAMINATION OF THE POINTS
INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED
IN REFTEL C. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, TAKE A FAVORABLE
APPROACH IF SAR APPLIED FOR A NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHT TO
WEST BERLIN.
CASH

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